

Supplemental Report of the Committee to Respond to Communication 19-5: Response to Communications from Marion and Durham Sessions

As noted in our previous report, the RPTS Faculty determined to “assess *The Liturgy of Creation*, for confessional subscription and hermeneutical legitimacy, with the aim to arrive at a Seminary position on Michael LeFebvre’s book” (November 18, 2019 email from President York).

As a result of communication from the Durham and Marion Sessions, which were referred to this committee on February 10, 2020, your committee determined to seek a copy of the above-mentioned report. After email exchanges, including a request for clarification, President York responded in the evening of February 10 as follows:

[Y]ou quoted from our Faculty's original motion in September that I sent to you when we first corresponded about a "Seminary position." Since that time, in counsel with the Board and Faculty, we were led to believe (as I mentioned in my previous email [see below]) that it would be best at this time for RPTS not to take an official position at this time with respect to Michael's writings so as not to supersede the work of the courts of the church. So though the Board and Faculty have received the review, and the committee has heard input from them and are internally reviewing our work in light of it, the review will be the work of the committee and not an official position paper of RPTS.

What is this review? When will it be available? President York explains in a previous email on February 10. What is this review? “It should be understood that this review will not represent the position of either the Faculty or the Board of RPTS, but will be an academic review by us three men [Stivason, Williams, York] to give our viewpoints on Dr. LeFebvre's writings in *The Liturgy of Creation* with reference to his article ‘Adam Reigns in Eden.’”

When will this review be available? Again, President York explains in the earlier email on February 10. “Currently we are going through an internal review process. Given that I knew Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery was not meeting until early March and your committee was proposing requesting our review at that time, I do not anticipate having that completed until the time of your meeting ... So I trust you will understand that I mean no disrespect in that I cannot honor your request to send it at this time.”

Given the developing thought and circumstances and the current status of the Seminary Faculty Review, it is not possible to obtain a copy of this review before Presbytery meets. The requests of the Durham and Marion Sessions are, therefore, moot.

Respectfully Submitted,

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